

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE MUSEUM ON
MONDAY 3RD JULY 2023**

Meeting Commenced: 7:00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8:45 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Joe Bambridge, James Clayton, John Crockford-Hawley (S), Owen James, Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Alan Peak, Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee & Office Manager) and Graham Meikle (Volunteer Supervisor).

59	<p>Election of Chairman</p> <p>Nominations for the position of Chairman were requested.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen SECONDED BY: Councillor Owen James</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor James Clayton be elected Chairman for the year 2023 – 2024.</p> <p>Councillor James Clayton took his place as Chairman of the meeting.</p>
60	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</p> <p>Councillor Alan Peak was in attendance and gave a apologies for absence for Councillor John Carson. Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Caroline Reynolds who was substituted by Councillor John Crockford-Hawley.</p>
61	<p>Election of Vice Chairman</p> <p>Nominations for the position of Vice Chairman were requested.</p> <p>Two nominations were received</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen SECONDED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong</p> <p>That Councillor Joe Bambridge be elected Vice Chairman and</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Justyna Pecak - Michalowcz SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield</p> <p>That Councillor Roger Bailey be elected Vice Chairman.</p> <p>For the benefit of new members, introductions by all members were made.</p>

	<p>A vote was then taken and accordingly it was carried (5/3).</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Joe Bambridge be elected Vice Chairman for the year 2023 – 2024.</p>
62	<p>To receive Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were none received.</p>
63	<p>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 13th March 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated and were also available at the meeting.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.</p>
64	<p>To note the Committee Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Committee Terms of Reference had been previously circulated.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Community Services Committee Terms of Reference be noted.</p>
65	<p>References from other Committees:</p> <p>There were none received.</p>
66	<p>To receive the North Somerset Council CCTV Reports</p> <p>The CCTV reports for the period of February/March & April 2023 had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Reference was made to the previous minutes and the committee's request that future reports could show trends and patterns, as the current paperwork was too vast.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk informed that during the procurement for the CCTV it was the intention that snapshot reports would be generated, however it transpires that the reports were being pulled manually. She had a meeting with NSC the following day where she would reconfirm the council's requirements for snapshot reports showing trends and the software's ability to do so.</p>

	<p>For the benefit of new members, background into the council's £81,000 investment in CCTV was given and discussion regarding trends ensued.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the CCTV reports for February/March & April 2023 be received and that the Deputy Town Clerk pursue the refining of these reports with NSC in time for the next meeting.</p>
<p>67</p>	<p>Grounds Management Report</p> <p>The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated.</p> <p>On behalf of the Grounds Manager, the Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services responded to questions raised:</p> <p><u>Toilets</u> Since the writing of the report, the vandalism at Ashcombe Park toilets had ceased and a skylight was being replaced. NSC had undertaken a drain survey and tree roots were causing blockages, quotes for work were being received. All other toilet sites were currently running.</p> <p><u>Allotments</u> The Council had consulted with other parishes on the of keeping quails on allotment sites and some good guidance had been received surrounding animal welfare. The council would support the Allotment Club's decision on the situation and it was noted that a general review of the management of Allotments would be undertaken at some point by the Expenditure & Governance Working Party.</p> <p><u>Cemetery</u> The council were currently experiencing complaints about the grass cutting in the Cemetery and the Grounds team were doing everything they could to get on top of this. The delay was due to 2x key members of staff out with long term sickness. Signs were now up apologising for the delay and it was the team's main priority.</p> <p>There were still sections in the cemetery used for rewilding and the maintenance of this was also running behind. It was noted how much wildlife this had attracted into the cemetery and what a lovely place it was to visit.</p> <p>Engaging with the public about this was key and the signage had tailed off the complaints.</p> <p>It was noted that the Soroptimist memorial in Grove Park had been damaged and that the Assistant Town Clerk was in communication with NSC about relocation within the park.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>68</p>	<p>To receive the report from the Community Response Officers</p> <p>It was noted that a report had not been received and there were no Community Response (CR) Officers in attendance.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the breaking and entering of unauthorised encampments on</p>

the beach lawns. The magistrates order had lapsed at 5pm that day and it was now a Police issue. The response from the Police was felt to be lacking and it was proposed that a vote of insufficient confidence in the Police be communicated to the Chief Constable.

The Chairman was mindful that this subject was not a specific agenda item. However, as this was an area of Community Safety it was felt that the Town Clerk could be instructed to write to the Chief Constable to this effect. To his knowledge, a report of a break in was made and Police responded but did not prevent the unlawful encampment taking place. There was a meeting between NSC and the Police on unauthorised encampments due to take place.

Members reported their ward constituents' frustrations with the situation.

For the benefit of new members, the Assistant Town Clerk gave background on the Community Response SLA with NSC for the funding of a CRO to tackle antisocial behavior. The Council does not have the powers to enforce so was a way to tackle without going privately, which would cost the council money. Examples of antisocial behavior and activity experienced, were at tents in Ellenborough Park West / anti-social behavior at the Waterpark and Dartmouth Close. CR had also been involved in the Castle Batch opening and one of the officers would be based at the Community Centre to help with presence.

Other recent activity where CR was being utilised was anti-social behavior in Grove Park where a rock was thrown through the window of the Mayors Parlour. The council was working with them and the Police to tackle.

The SLA would come under review this year by E&G for next year's budget, but could come back through this committee in September for input.

Members would like to see consistent reporting and attendance by officers at future meetings.

The Assistant Town Clerk would write a report in conjunction with CR, pulling NSC statistics to support and show cost savings, for consideration at the next meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Clerk write to the Police Chief Constable communicating the Town Councils vote of insufficient confidence in the Police in respect of the breaking and entering of unauthorised encampments on the beach lawns.
2. That a review of Community Response be considered at the next meeting – September 2023.

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Service Area reports:

.1 Youth Services

The report of the Operations Manager – YMCA had been previously circulated.

An updated report had also been circulated and was available at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the be noted.

.2 Community Events

The report of the Community & Grounds Coordinator had been previously circulated which outlined recommendations for members consideration.

Members were pleased to see the return of and the proposals for the Literary. However, would like to be able to understand the breakdown of costs to establish whether the event was value for money.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed that Culture Weston had done a lot of evaluation work on recognising if it was an accessible event and had rolled out this approach with other events which had worked successfully.

A post event analysis from Culture Weston on the event was requested to justify expenditure showing the demographics of people attending and how it was reaching out to gain audience.

The Assistant Town Clerk suggested this could be done via postcodes.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**.

RESOLVED:

1. That subject to the requirement to provide analysis and evaluation back to the committee following the event to be able to measure success, members were happy to approve the attached Appendix 1 Programme of Events on the understanding this was a working document and changes/adjustments may need to be made.
2. To note that any income that may be achieved (subject to ability to do so) from the festival will be payable to Culture Weston to contribute towards the running costs of the event as event organiser – it was not expected that the event will make any profit.
3. To approve release of the £2,500 from the council's event budget 23/24 to Culture Weston, as agreed and resolved on the 7th March 2022.

.3 Weston in Bloom

The Community & Grounds Coordinator was not in attendance.

A member raised concern over the lack of planting at the Railway station, Sparky the donkey and roundabouts as a tourist town.

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the roundabouts and Sparky the donkey had recently been planted all with sustainable planting and soil and advised that the plants would come out soon. The flower beds in Grove Park were an example of what they would look like. The railways station was still left to do and the planters would also be jazzed up before the summer holidays. The weather had been a huge factor in the growth and the heatwave had resulted in the council reinstating its watering contract. It was further confirmed that a contractor had been appointed to help with watering due to the extreme weather conditions in order to ensure all new planting was being cared for as much as possible.

The report of the Town Clerk and Quarterly Report from Somewhere to Go had been previously circulated.

The Chairman declared an interest as a board member of Somewhere to Go and handed over to the Vice Chairman.

The statistical report was queried and questions had been raised regarding this and the inconsistency of reporting, hence the review by Expenditure and Governance Working Party (E&G) as per the Town Clerk's recommendation.

The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that the committee needed to approve the release of the 1st instalment of funds for this year. In addition, the Town Clerk's recommendation to review this via E&G. It would also be useful to know what the council wanted from the charity to release the payments for future reference.

Members suggested that a representative from the charity should be invited to attend meetings, to report and justify the £50,000 expenditure as it was felt it could not be released on the current information provided. Approval of the written report was accepted but the statistical report needed to be more comprehensive, to include a breakdown of costs. It was felt that due to timings and to speed up the process, delegation should be given to E & G (13th July 2023) to receive further information whom, if deemed as satisfactory could authorise the release of the first instalment of 23/24 budget provisions on this occasion.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the report and statistics from StG be noted and referred to the Expenditure and Governance Working Party for consideration before the Council prepares its budget for 2024/25.
2. That subject to the receipt of a satisfactory more detailed statistical reporting to include key KPI's, and a breakdown of what the last years £50,000 had been spent on. The Community Services Committee were happy to recommend that the Expenditure and Governance Working Party release the 1st instalment of funds to StG.

71 Community Resilience Update

A report of the Anti-racism working group (ARWG) consultation evening update was

	<p>circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that managing Anti-racism meetings had been challenging with balancing and managing the expectations of the many communities. The last interaction with the ARWG was in form of a consultation evening, which was very well received, it was reinforced that the council was there as an ally and enabler and as a result, a list of suggestions were reported (as detailed within the report) for members consideration of area that it was felt the council could consider facilitation. Feedback was awaited at the next ARWG mtg.</p> <p>One of the suggestions was for a community screen in the Silica, displaying information about initiatives taking place locally.</p> <p>The Chairman was mindful of any cost implications associated with this.</p> <p>It was advised that a screen would be provided by NSC as part of the Silica exploration approved by the Tourism & Leisure Committee (T&L) to maintain. The detail of which would come back through T&L for approval. Members agreed that the council needed editorial control of the content and would need to be managed in conjunction with tourism.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the anti-racism working group's request for a community screen in Silica be considered in conjunction with the Tourism & Leisure Committee's exploration with NSC and that subject to ability, the council had editorial control of the content, managed in conjunction with its tourism function.</p>
72	<p>Street Art Trail 2021 'Weston Walls'</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk verbally reported that the project was now complete, consisting of over 40 walls and all were looking really good. Published maps of the project had been created and the project was under the remit of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee to manage going forward.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
73	<p>Grant applications</p> <p>The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for small and voluntary grants was £12,500 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a £12,500 balance remaining.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for Community Event Grants was £60,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a £60,000 balance remaining.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for Youth Grants was £3,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a £3,000 balance remaining.</p> <p>Members noted and questioned the absence of submitted accounts and necessary information for both applications.</p>

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the information / accounts had not been received and that due to the timings associated with the grants, they were for members consideration.

.1 Elmtree Learning Partnership

Grant Applied for £1,000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Elmtree Learning Partnership was an alternative provision for children who struggled in mainstream education and were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help run their summer project which enabled the children to re-engage in education and socialisation.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Standfield

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

A vote was taken and was **carried:**

RESOLVED: That due to insufficient information submitted, the applications did not meet the criteria and could not be considered at this time.

.2 Humans of Weston CIC

Grant Applied for £1,000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The organisation Humans of Weston CIC provided communities with various different engaging activities. They had been invited to host an exhibit at Weston Museum from July through to October and were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help cover the costs of four workshops and materials that may be needed for the display.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Standfield

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

A vote was taken and was **carried:**

RESOLVED: That due to insufficient information submitted, the applications did not meet the criteria and could not be considered at this time.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Signed: Dated:

Chairman of the Community Services Committee